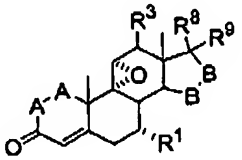
PHA 4199.1(3090/7/US)

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-65. (cancelled).

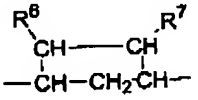
Claim 66. (currently amended) A process for the formation of a compound of Formula I:



I

wherein -A-A- represents the group $-CHR^4-CHR^5-$ or $-CR^4=CR^5-$;

-B-B- represents the group $-CHR^6-CHR^7-$ or an alpha- or beta-oriented group of Formula III:



III

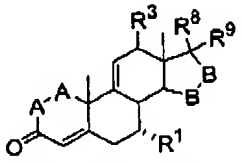
R^1 represents an α-oriented lower alkoxycarbonyl or hydroxycarbonyl radical;

R^3, R^4 and R^5 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halo, hydroxy, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxy carbonyl, cyano, and aryloxy;

R^6 and R^7 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halo, lower alkoxy, acyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxycarbonyl, alkyl, alkoxycarbonyl, acyloxyalkyl, cyano, and aryloxy; and

R^8 and R^9 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxy, halo, lower alkoxy, acyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxycarbonylalkyl, alkoxycarbonylalkyl, acyloxyalkyl, cyano, and aryloxy, or R^8 and R^9 together comprise a carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring structure, or R^8 or R^9 together with R^6 or R^7 comprise a carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring structure fused to the pentacyclic D ring;

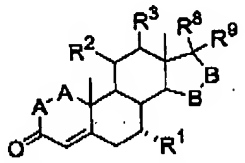
the process comprising **epoxidizing** ~~converting~~ a compound of Formula II ~~to a compound of Formula I~~, said compound of Formula II having the structure:



II

wherein -A-A-, -B-B-, R^1, R^3, R^8 and R^9 are as defined above;

wherein **preparation of** said compound of Formula II **comprises** ~~is prepared by~~ **eliminating a leaving group from** ~~converting~~ a compound of Formula IV ~~to a compound of Formula II~~, said compound of Formula IV having the structure:

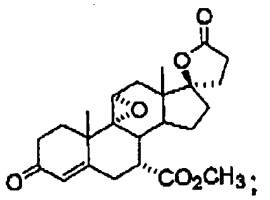


IV

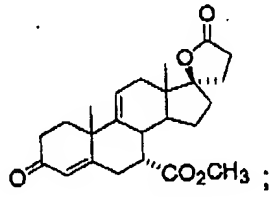
wherein -A-A-, -B-B-, R^1, R^3, R^8 and R^9 are as defined above, and R^2 is a leaving group the abstraction of which is effective for generating a double bond between the 9- and 11-carbon atoms.

Claim 67. (cancelled)

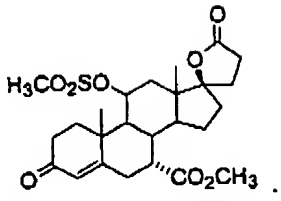
Claim 68. (previously presented) A process as set forth in claim 66 wherein said compound of Formula I is:



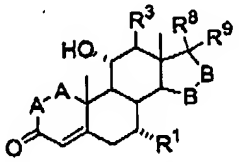
said compound of Formula II is:



and said compound of Formula IV is:



Claim 69. (currently amended) A process as set forth in claim 66 wherein **preparation of** the compound of Formula IV **comprises** ~~is prepared by~~ **esterifying or halogenating** ~~converting~~ a compound of Formula V ~~to a compound of Formula IV~~, said compound of Formula V having the structure:

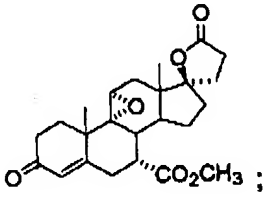


V

wherein -A-A-, -B-B-, R^1, R^3, R^8 and R^9 are as defined in claim 66.

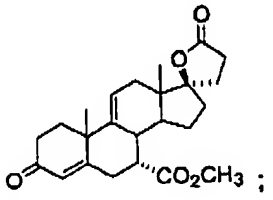
Claims 70. –71. (cancelled)

Claim 72. (previously presented) The process of claim 69 wherein said compound of Formula I is:



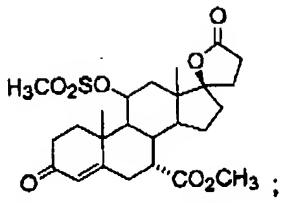
;

said compound of Formula II is:

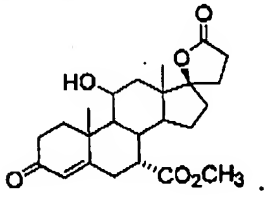


;

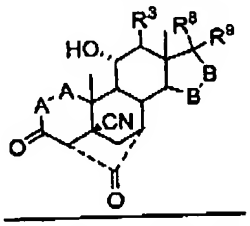
said compound of Formula IV is:



and said compound of Formula V is:



Claim 73. (currently amended) A process as set forth in claim 69 wherein **preparation of** the compound of Formula V **comprises** ~~is prepared by~~ **reacting** ~~converting~~ a compound of Formula VI **with a metal alkoxide** ~~to a compound of Formula V~~, said compound of Formula VI having the structure:

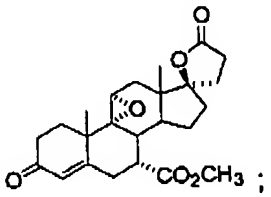


VI

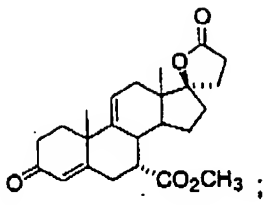
wherein -A-A-, -B-B-, R^3, R^8 and R^9 are as defined in claim 69.

Claim 74. (cancelled)

Claim 75. (currently amended) The process of claim 73 wherein said compound of Formula I is:

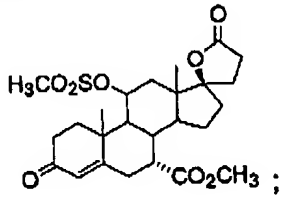


said compound of Formula II is:



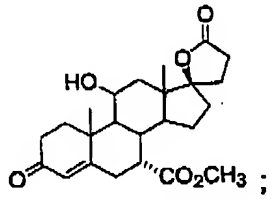
;

said compound of Formula IV is:



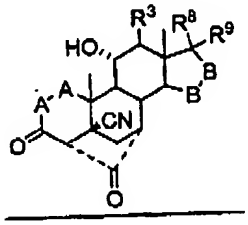
;

said compound of Formula V is:



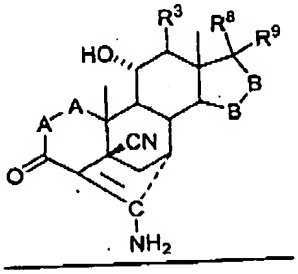
;

and said compound of Formula VI is:



.

Claim 76. (currently amended) A process as set forth in claim 73 wherein **preparation of** the compound of Formula VI ~~is prepared by~~ **comprises hydrolyzing** ~~converting~~ a compound of Formula VII ~~to a compound of Formula VI~~, said compound of Formula VII having the structure:

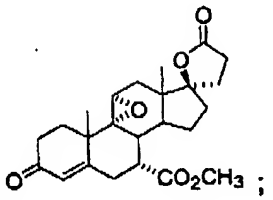


VII

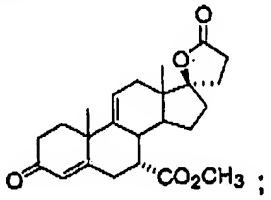
wherein -A-A-, -B-B-, R^3, R^6 and R^9 are as defined in claim 73.

Claim 77. (cancelled)

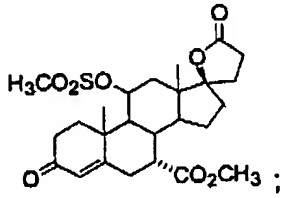
Claim 78. (currently amended) The process of claim 76 wherein said compound of Formula I is:



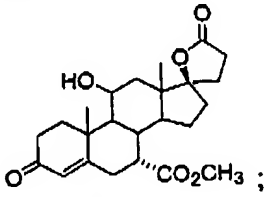
said compound of Formula II is:



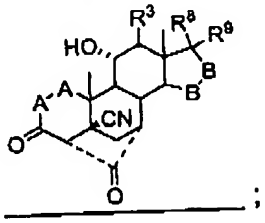
said compound of Formula IV is:



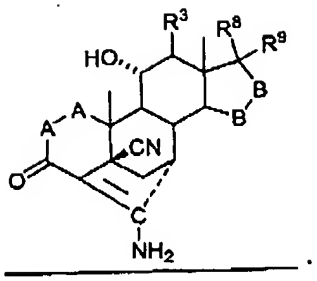
said compound of Formula V is:



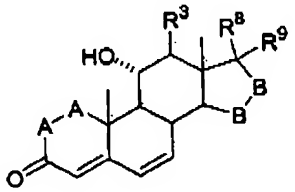
said compound of Formula VI is:



and said compound of Formula VII is:



Claim 79. (currently amended) A process as set forth in claim 76 wherein **preparation of** the compound of Formula VII **comprises** ~~is prepared by~~ **cyanidating** ~~converting~~ a compound of Formula VIII ~~to a compound of Formula VII~~, said compound of Formula VIII having the structure:

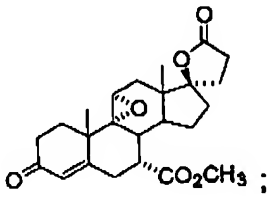


VIII

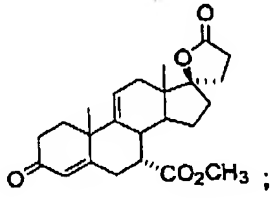
wherein -A-A-, -B-B-, R^3, R^8 and R^9 are as defined in claim 76.

Claims 80. – 81. (cancelled)

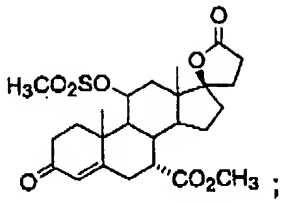
Claim 82. (currently amended) A process as set forth in claim 79 wherein said compound of Formula I is:



said compound of Formula II is:

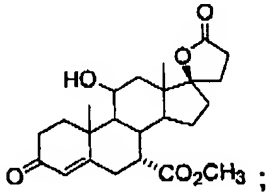


said compound of Formula IV is:



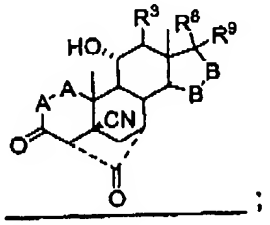
;

said compound of Formula V is:



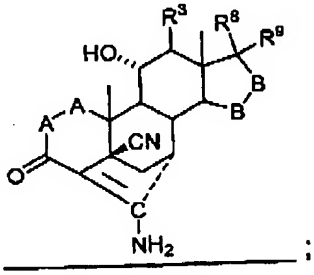
;

said compound of Formula VI is:



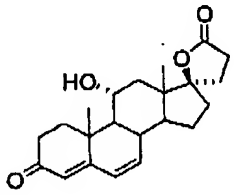
;

said compound of Formula VII is:

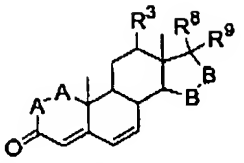


;

and said compound of Formula VIII is:



Claim 83. (currently amended) A process as set forth in claim 79 wherein **preparation of** the compound of Formula VIII **comprises** ~~is prepared by~~ **hydroxylating** ~~converting~~ a compound of Formula XIII ~~to a compound of Formula VIII~~, said compound of Formula XIII having the structure:

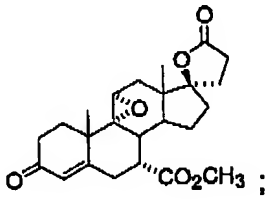


XIII

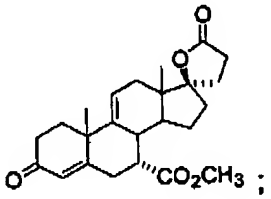
wherein -A-A-, -B-B-, R^3, R^8 and R^9 are as defined in claim 79.

Claims 84. - 85 (cancelled)

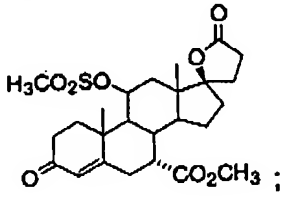
Claim 86. (currently amended) A process as set forth in claim 83 wherein said compound of Formula I is:



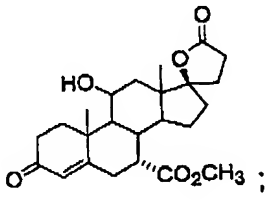
said compound of Formula II is:



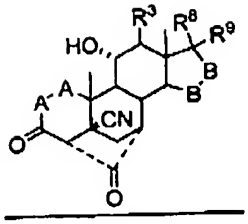
said compound of Formula IV is:



said compound of Formula V is:

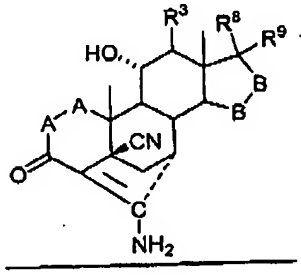


said compound of Formula VI is:



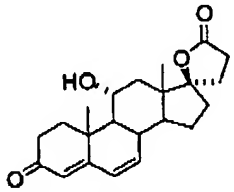
;

said compound of Formula VII is:



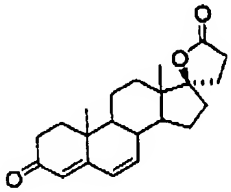
;

said compound of Formula VIII is:



;

and said compound of Formula XIII is:



.

Claims 87. – 93. (cancelled)

Claim 94. (currently amended) A process as set forth in claim 66 wherein ~~said~~ **epoxidation** ~~conversion~~ of a compound of Formula II ~~to a compound of Formula I is effected by~~ **comprises** contacting an epoxidizing reagent with a compound of Formula II.

Claim 95. (currently amended) A process as set forth in claim 66 wherein **elimination of** said **leaving group from** ~~conversion of~~ a compound of Formula

IV ~~to form a compound of Formula II is effected by~~ **comprises** removing an 11α-leaving group from a compound of Formula IV.

Claim 96. (currently amended) A process as set forth in claim 69 wherein ~~said~~ **esterification or halogenation** ~~conversion~~ of a compound of Formula V ~~to a compound of Formula IV is effected by~~ **comprises** reacting a lower alkylsulfonylating or acylating reagent or a halide generating agent with a compound of Formula V.

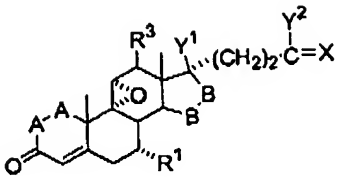
Claim 97. (currently amended) A process as set forth in claim 73 wherein ~~said~~ **reaction** ~~conversion~~ of a compound of Formula VI **with a metal alkoxide** ~~to a compound of Formula V is effected by~~ **comprises** reacting a compound of Formula VI with an alkali metal alkoxide corresponding to the formula $R^{10}OM$ wherein M is alkali metal and $R^{10}O$- corresponds to the alkoxy substituent of R^1.

Claim 98. (cancelled) ~~A process as set forth in claim 76 wherein said conversion of a compound of Formula VII to a compound of Formula VI is effected by hydrolyzing a compound of Formula VII.~~

Claim 99. (currently amended) A process as set forth in claim 79 wherein ~~said~~ **cyanidation** ~~conversion~~ of a compound of Formula VIII ~~to a compound of Formula VII is effected by~~ **comprises** reacting a source of cyanide ion in the presence of an alkali metal salt with a compound of Formula VIII.

Claim 100. (currently amended) A process as set forth in claim 83 wherein ~~said~~ **hydroxylation** ~~conversion~~ of a compound of Formula XIII ~~to a compound of Formula VIII is effected by~~ **comprises** oxidizing a compound of Formula XIII by fermentation in the presence of a microorganism effective for introducing an 11-hydroxy group into said substrate in α-orientation.

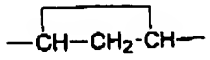
Claim 101. (currently amended) A process for the formation of a compound of Formula IA:



IA

wherein -A-A- represents the group $-CH_2-CH_2-$ or -CH=CH-;

-B-B- represents the group $-CH_2-CH_2-$ or an alpha- or beta- oriented group of Formula IIIA:



IIIA

R^1 represents an alpha-oriented lower alkoxycarbonyl radical;

X represents two hydrogen atoms or oxo;

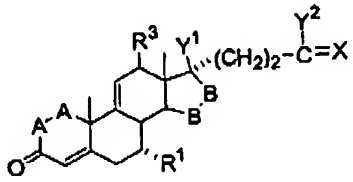
Y^1 and Y^2 together represent the oxygen bridge -O-, or

Y^1 represents hydroxy, and

Y^2 represents hydroxy, lower alkoxy or, if X represents H_2, also lower alkanoyloxy;

and salts of compounds in which X represents oxo and Y^2 represents hydroxy;

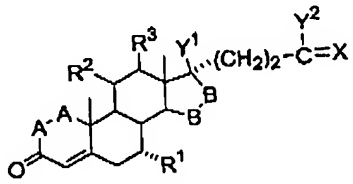
the process comprising **epoxidizing** ~~converting~~ a compound of Formula IIA ~~to a compound of Formula IA~~, said compound of Formula IIA having the structure:



IIA

wherein -A-A-, -B-B-, R^1, R^3, X, Y^1 and Y^2 are as defined above;

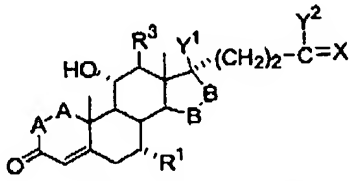
wherein **formation of** said compound of Formula IIA ~~is formed by~~ **comprises eliminating a leaving group from** ~~converting~~ a compound of Formula IVA ~~to a compound of Formula IIA~~, said compound of Formula IVA having the structure:



IVA

wherein -A-A-, -B-B-, R^1, R^3, X, Y^1 and Y^2 are as defined above, and R^2 represents lower alkylsulfonyloxy or acyloxy; **and**

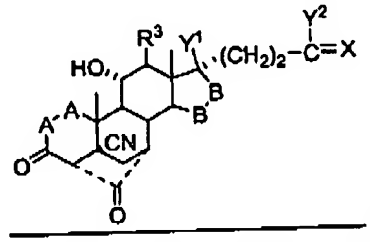
wherein **formation of** said compound of Formula IVA ~~is formed by~~ **comprises esterifying or halogenating** ~~converting~~ a compound of Formula VA ~~to a compound of Formula IVA~~, said compound of Formula VA having the structure:



VA

wherein -A-A-, -B-B-, R^1, R^3, X, Y^1 and Y^2 are as defined above;

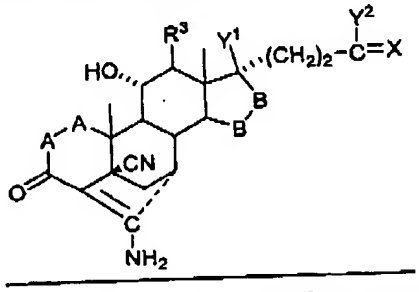
wherein **formation of** said compound of Formula VA ~~is formed by~~ **comprises reacting** ~~converting~~ a compound of Formula VIA **with a metal alkoxide** ~~to a compound of Formula VA~~, said compound of Formula VIA having the structure:



VIA

wherein -A-A-, -B-B-, R^3, X, Y^1 and Y^2 are as defined above; **and**

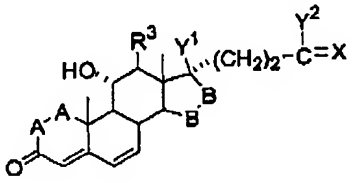
wherein **formation of** said compound of Formula VIA ~~is formed by~~ **comprises hydrolyzing** ~~converting~~ a compound of Formula VIIA to a compound of Formula VIA, said compound of Formula VIIA having the structure:



VIIA

wherein -A-A-, -B-B-, R^3, X, Y^1 and Y^2 are as defined above; **and**

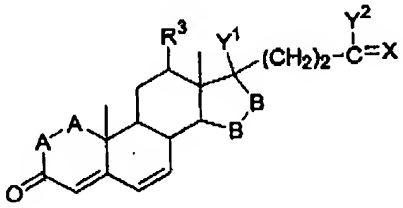
wherein **formation of** said compound of Formula VIIA ~~is formed by~~ **cyanidating** ~~converting~~ a compound of Formula VIIIA ~~to form a compound of Formula VIIA~~, said compound of Formula VIIIA having the structure:



VIIIA

wherein -A-A-, -B-B-, R^3, X, Y^1 and Y^2 are as defined above; **and**

wherein **formation of** said compound of Formula VIIIA ~~is formed by~~ **comprises hydroxylating** ~~converting~~ a compound of Formula XIIIA ~~to form a compound of Formula VIIIA~~, said compound of Formula XIIIA having the structure:



XIIIA

wherein -A-A-, -B-B-, R^3, X, Y^1 and Y^2 are as defined above.